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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-second session
Item 15 of the provisional agenda

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Second session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

GE.95-14428 (E)

Introduction

1. In its resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, defined its purposes, funding and beneficiaries, and decided that the Fund should be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and other relevant provisions, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of five persons.

2. In accordance with this resolution, the Secretary-General appointed the following five members to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for a three-year term of office expiring on 31 December 1995: Mr. Swami Agnivesh (India), Mr. Michel Bonnet (France), Mr. Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara (Mauritania), Ms. Tatiana Matveeva (Russian Federation) and Ms. Eugenia Zamora Chavarria (Uruguay). Ms. E. Zamora Chavarria resigned in November 1994.

3. The Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery met for its second session from 28 August to 1 September 1995. Faced with the difficult financial situation of the Voluntary Fund, the Board of Trustees had been unable to meet since its first session in March 1993.

4. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolutions 1994/24 and 1995/27, expressing its concern and regret at the financial situation of the Fund, appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis.

5. It was, therefore, a matter of the utmost importance for the Board of Trustees to hold its second session in order to develop systematic fund-raising methods and other measures to promote increased contributions, as well as to set criteria and guidelines for the Board of Trustees in its consideration of requests for assistance.

A. Organization of the session

6. At its second session the Board of Trustees held seven meetings in closed session, attended by its four members. In order to minimize administrative expenses the members of the Board agreed to meet without interpretation.

7. At the first meeting on 28 August 1995, the Board of Trustees confirmed Mr. Swami Agnivesh as Chairman of the Board.

8. In his opening statement, the Chairman expressed his concern that the second session of the Board of Trustees had had to be postponed three times because of the insufficient reserves of the Fund owing to a lack of contributions. He recalled that the Fund had been established to assist the victims of slavery, namely those who actually suffered from the practices of slavery, such as debt-bonded labour, forced labour, traffic in persons and sexual exploitation of women and children, as well as those who bore the consequences of such practices.

9. During the session, the Board of Trustees examined applications for assistance to representatives of non-governmental organizations for their participation in the next session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and also a number of requests for financial assistance for projects submitted by non-governmental organizations for the benefit of the victims of contemporary forms of slavery. It then considered criteria and guidelines in respect of the decision taken by it regarding grants for participation in the Working Group and financing projects. The Board also reviewed the existing application form for assistance.

B. Adoption of the agenda

10. At its first meeting, on 28 August 1995, the Board of Trustees adopted the following agenda for the second session:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of Officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Financial status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

5. Consideration of the methods of work of the Board of Trustees.

6. Consideration of applications for funding for representatives of non-governmental organizations to participate in the twenty-first session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

7. Consideration of applications for financing projects and other activities.

8. Other matters, including the consideration of fund-raising for the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

C. Financial status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

11. Under agenda item 4, the Board of Trustees had before it a statement of the financial status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

12. It was explained by the secretariat that 27 per cent of the total amount accumulated in the Voluntary Fund was not available, namely, 13 per cent reserved for programme support costs and 15 per cent kept as cash reserve.

13. Since its establishment, the following Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals had contributed to the Voluntary Fund:

Government of the Netherlands	F. 50,000	(US$ 27,495)
Child Eyes Campaign	US$ 100	
Government of Chile	US$ 2,500	
Government of Kuwait	US$ 12,000	
Dr. Buscioni-Francolanci	US$ 500	
Government of Switzerland	SF 20,000	(US$ 15,515)
Government of Morocco	US$ 2,640	

14. The members of the Board of Trustees raised questions with regard to the channelling of financial assistance to the projects selected by the Board, such as whether the total amount of assistance decided by the Board would in fact reach the organizations responsible for the projects and how long it would take for the remittance to be made.

15. In reply, it was stated by the secretariat that the full amount decided on by the Board of Trustees would be received by the organization responsible for the selected project. The time required for the release of the amount and its remittance would be a minimum of three months. It was recalled that the task assigned to the Board of Trustees was to advise the Secretary-General in properly allocating the available funds. The Secretary-General would duly implement the recommendations of the Board in accordance with the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.

16. The Board of Trustees expressed its appreciation to all the donors and decided to announce their contributions in the present report.

17. The Board also decided to express its grave concern at the situation of the Voluntary Fund and its management and adopted the following declaration:

> "Certain Governments decided to establish the Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. We wish to express our surprise, our sadness and our great disappointment at the lack of concern that these Governments have shown with regard to the manner in which their decision has been implemented over the past three years. In spite of the efforts of the members of the Board of Trustees, and in spite of repeated appeals by the Commission on Human Rights, the majority of Governments have remained unheeding of the complete lack of funds and of the fact that, as a result, the Board of Trustees has been paralysed. What is more, those Governments have paid scant attention to the very inadequate support provided to the Fund by the Centre for Human Rights owing to the lack of available staff. We consider this to be an irresponsible attitude."

18. In addition, the Board requested the secretariat to provide it with an accurate and updated official statement on the financial status of the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, with clear indication of the exact amount of funds available for the Board to recommend for assistance.

D. Methods of work of the Board of Trustees

19. Under agenda item 5, the Board of Trustees considered its methods of work during the second session.

20. It also considered possible action to be taken with a view to raising awareness in the international community of the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, including appealing to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, holding a press conference and meeting with the representatives of a number of potential donor Governments.

21. The Board agreed on the text of a press release, which was issued on 1 September 1995. The members of the Board also met with the High Commissioner on 30 August 1995 and requested his support for the Voluntary Fund. In response to that request, the High Commissioner, expressing his appreciation of the important work mandated to the Board of Trustees, promised his unreserved support for the Voluntary Fund and, in particular, for the improvement of its financial situation.

E. Consideration of applications for assistance for participation in the session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

22. Under agenda item 6, the Board of Trustees had before it the list of the non-governmental organizations to which a letter had been addressed with regard to applications for assistance for participation by the representatives of non-governmental organizations in the session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and an additional list of non-governmental organizations to which a similar letter might be addressed in the future. It also had before it the list of applications received from non-governmental organizations for assistance for participation in the session of the Working Group (UNVFCFS/BT/1995/3).

23. With regard to the list of non-governmental organizations to which a letter might be addressed, the Board agreed to incorporate the additional list in the existing list of non-governmental organizations to be contacted. It was suggested that the list should include non-governmental organizations in Eastern Europe which had not been known for their activities dealing with issues related to contemporary forms of slavery.

24. With regard to the applications by non-governmental organizations for assistance for participation in the session of the Working Group, the Board decided to establish guidelines and criteria for application and selection. (For the guidelines and criteria see annexes I and II.)

25. Having examined all the applications submitted, the Board agreed that in selecting non-governmental organizations, priority should be given to grass-roots organizations and that the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be respected. It therefore decided to recommend that, irrespective of the applications submitted, two non-governmental organizations from each geographical region except Western Europe and other States should be selected.

26. The Board of Trustees selected the following non-governmental organizations:

Africa

1. Sudanese Women's Union;

2. A grass-roots organization in Mali;

Asia

3. Bondage Labour Liberation Front (India);

4. A local organization in Malaysia;

Latin America

5. Coalition against Trafficking in Women (Venezuela);

6. A non-governmental organization in Haiti dealing with issues of child labour, child prostitution, etc.;

Eastern Europe

7. A non-governmental organization in the Russian Federation dealing with issues of international adoption;

8. A non-governmental organization in another country in the region.

27. The Board requested the Secretariat to identify and contact the above-mentioned organizations and request them to specify the persons who would represent them.

28. In view of the continuing difficult situation of the Voluntary Fund, the Board supported the proposal made by one of its members that travel agencies and airlines be approached for the possible donation of free air tickets for the representatives of the NGOs and also that hotels in Geneva might be contacted with a view to their providing rooms for them free of charge. Such contributions would be officially acknowledged.

F. Consideration of applications for financial assistance for projects

29. Under agenda item 7, the Board of Trustees had before it the list of applications for financial assistance for projects.

30. In the general debate, the Board reached an agreement that the two purposes of the Voluntary Fund, namely assistance to the representatives of non-governmental organizations to participate in the session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery, should be treated equally, without any priority being given to one or the other.

31. Also in the general debate, the members raised questions concerning projects to be financed by the Voluntary Fund, such as whether to choose projects designed to help directly victims of contemporary forms of slavery or projects dealing with root causes and aiming at structural change in the society and whether to choose projects dealing with activities in the field or projects giving support to the institutional operation of an organization.

32. Having examined the applications for assistance for financing projects, the Board decided to give priority to projects which would have a direct effect in assisting victims of contemporary forms of slavery, projects focusing on field activities with specific targets, rather than financing the institutional operation of an organization. In that regard, the Board decided to draw up guidelines and criteria for application and selection. (See annexes I and II.)

33. Among the applications, the Board selected, subject to a more detailed submission, a project submitted by the International League for Human Rights to conduct, in cooperation with local women's groups, a two-week fact-finding mission to document and report on trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of forced labour and prostitution in South-East Asia.

34. The Board also agreed that the project activities financed by the Voluntary Fund should be monitored.

G. Other matters

35. Under agenda item 8, the Board of Trustees considered a number of questions to be settled for the smooth and better functioning of the Voluntary Fund.

Guidelines and criteria

36. The Board of Trustees considered guidelines and criteria for application and selection, both for assistance for participation in the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and for financial assistance for projects for the benefit of victims of contemporary forms of slavery. The guidelines and criteria are reproduced in annexes I and II.

Application forms

37. In view of the newly established guidelines and criteria, the Board decided to revise the existing application form, creating two forms, one for assistance for participation in the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the other for financial assistance for projects. These forms are reproduced in annex III.

Fund-raising

38. The Board of Trustees considered the question of fund-raising for the Voluntary Fund. It recognized the urgent need to produce information materials in order to cultivate awareness of the Voluntary Fund and its purposes. In that context, the Board met with the representative of Rehab Hope Fund. She said that she had conducted many fund-raising campaigns for

different institutions and emphasized the importance of catching the interest of the public, the media and private enterprises in the causes for which the Voluntary Fund has been established. She then made logistical suggestions on fund-raising.

Adoption of the report on the first session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

39. On 31 August 1995, the Board expressed its regret that the report on the session was not available, and requested that it should be issued.

Participation by the members of the Board of Trustees in the session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

40. The Board decided that its Chairman, or another member replacing him, should represent the Board at the next session of the Working Group. It also expressed its wish that all the members of the Board of Trustees should be invited to attend that session without financial cost to the Voluntary Fund.

H. Conclusion of the session

41. At the conclusion of its session, the Board recalled that the current term of office of its members would end on 31 December 1995 and expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would take timely action with regard to appointing members for the next term.

42. The Board entrusted the secretariat with finalizing the report on its second session.

Annex I

A.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS FOR GRANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

I. MANDATE

A. Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

1. The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery has general responsibility in the United Nations for the study of slavery in all its aspects. The Group met for the first time in 1975 as the Working Group on Slavery. It was renamed in 1988.

2. The Working Group consists of five independent experts chosen on the basis of equitable geographical representation from the membership of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The Working Group meets for eight days each year and reports to the Sub-Commission.

3. In addition to monitoring the application of the slavery conventions and reviewing the situation in different parts of the world, the Working Group selects themes for special attention each year. For example, in recent sessions it has selected the themes of prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; eradication of the exploitation of children and debt bondage; prevention of the traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others; forced labour; and transnational adoptions.

B. United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

4. In its resolution 46/122 the General Assembly established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery to assist representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions, dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance.

5. The Voluntary Trust Fund gives priority to organizations which are actively concerned at the local level with problems and issues of contemporary forms of slavery.

II. SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS

6. When submitting a request for funding, organizations should duly fill in the request form attached in English and French, indicating clearly the organization and person in charge of the organization, the mailing address, telephone and fax number; the geographical area in which the organization is active; the number and names of the persons participating in the session of

the Working Group; and the purpose of the participation in the Working Group. Additional documents relevant to such participation, such as reports or press-clippings, can be attached.

7. The organization should indicate the beneficiary, and the bank and the account to which the grants may be transferred. Cost estimates should be provided, including both the cost of travel and the cost of accommodation in Geneva. The amount requested from the Fund should be given in United States dollars.

8. The Board of Trustees encourages applicants to calculate the costs of travel and accommodation on the lowest basis.

9. Statements by the participants in the Working Group are limited, in principle, to 10 minutes (a half-page synopsis of the statement should be attached to the request form). Testimonies to the Working Group should cover not only cases and situations of contemporary forms of slavery, but also include possible solutions, recommendations or proposals.

10. Requests should be addressed to the secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland by 15 June each year.

11. The requests for grants are examined by the Board of Trustees in August each year. The Board makes recommendations concerning the grants to the Secretary-General, who takes a decision after having reviewed all the information available. The organizations presenting requests are informed of the decision of the Secretary-General by mail, usually in December. If a grant is awarded, it is deposited by the United Nations in the bank account indicated on the application form. Organizations receiving a grant are requested to acknowledge receipt immediately.

Annex I

B.

GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT REQUESTS

I. SUBMITTING REQUESTS FOR GRANTS TO FINANCE PROJECTS

A. Mandate of the Fund

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/122 established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery to extend, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.

2. The "established channels of assistance" through which, in accordance with resolution 46/122, the Fund's aid is to be distributed has been interpreted for the time being to mean that the assistance will be channelled through existing non-governmental organizations to projects sponsored or administered by these organizations. The Voluntary Fund does not directly administer projects nor does it give assistance directly to individuals. The Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund advises the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the use of the Fund and recommends the projects to be provided with assistance from the Fund.

B. Submission of requests

3. When submitting a request for funding, organizations should fill in the project request form attached in English or French, indicating clearly the organization and person in charge of the project; the mailing address, telephone and fax number; and the geographical area covered by the project. The organization should indicate the bank, its address, and the account number in which the grants may be deposited, and the name of the beneficiary. A detailed budget should be provided indicating both the overall cost of the project and the exact amount requested from the Fund. The figures should be given in local currency and in United States dollars.

4. Project requests should be addressed to the secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

5. The request for grants are examined by the Board of Trustees in August each year. The Board makes recommendations for grants to the Secretary-General, who takes a decision after having reviewed all the information available. The organizations submitting requests for grants are informed of the decision of the Secretary-General by mail, usually in November or December. If a grant has been awarded, it is deposited by the United Nations in the bank account indicated on the form. Organizations receiving a grant are requested to acknowledge receipt immediately.

II. REPORTING ON THE USE OF GRANTS FROM THE FUND

6. For every project which receives assistance from the Fund, the Board of Trustees of the Fund requires an acknowledgement of receipt of the grant (copy attached), a narrative report, a financial report on the use of the grant and an auditor's report.

A. What are the deadlines?

7. These reports must be submitted within one month of the completion of the project. The reports are considered at the next meeting of the Board, in the following August.

8. If the acknowledgement of receipt of the grant, the narrative report, the financial report, the auditor's report and any additional information requested do not reach the secretariat within a period of time (to be established), and no explanation is given for the delay, the person in charge of the project will be notified by the secretariat that he or she must return the amount of the grant to the Fund.

B. What should the narrative report contain?

9. The narrative report should, in all cases, give: (a) the number of victims who have received assistance from your organization in general and, in particular, the number who have received assistance through the Fund (the identities of these individuals should not be revealed); (b) the contemporary form of slavery involved; (c) the type of assistance provided from the Fund grant; and (d) an evaluation of the results.

10. If your organization is cooperating with any other United Nations body or agency in carrying out the project in the field (UNHCR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO or others), please give details about such cooperation.

11. Any document of more than five pages which you may wish to attach to the narrative report on the project must be accompanied by a one- to two-page summary in English or French.

C. What should the financial report contain?

12. All the amounts should be given in national currency and in United States dollars.

13. The financial report should include the general accounts of your organization in addition to the budget breakdown for any Fund-assisted project, and should specify how the Fund's grant was allocated. The Board would like the Fund's contribution and the way it is allocated to be clearly indicated in your accounts. A detailed description of expenditures from the grant should be submitted.

14. The Board would like the comments of your organization's auditors to be submitted with the annual financial report or as quickly as possible.

D. Additional information

15. If your organization assists a significant number of victims, the Board would appreciate statistical data on those victims.

16. To assist the Board of Trustees in reviewing the information requested, please follow these guidelines:

1. Replies to any requests from us for additional information should be no more than two pages long.

2. For greater safety in paying out grants, the Fund secretariat prefers to make the payments by bank transfer; any changes regarding the bank, bank branch or account number, should be reported as soon as possible. The attached acknowledgement of receipt should be returned to the secretariat upon receipt of the amount of the grant.

3. In accordance with a standing recommendation of the Board, recipients of Fund grants are asked: (a) to seek additional sources of financing; (b) as a general rule, not to count on financing from the Fund for more than one half of the project budget; and (c) not to expect automatic renewal of the grant each year.

Annex II

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

A. Assistance for participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

1. Priority is given to NGOs which are active at the local level, dealing with problems and issues of contemporary forms of slavery.

2. The principle of equitable geographical distribution is duly respected.

B. Funding of projects for victims of contemporary forms of slavery

1. Priority is given to projects which are relevant to the priority areas as decided by the Working Group.

2. Priority is given to projects which aim at directly benefiting the victims of contemporary forms of slavery, and not financing institutional support of the organizations.

3. Priority is given to projects which are implemented by non-governmental organizations active at the local level.

Annex III

A.

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Form for a request for assistance for participation in the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

1. Name of the non-governmental organization (NGO) which the participant(s) will represent:

_____

_____

2. Postal address of the NGO:

_____

_____

Telephone N°: _____

Fax N°: _____

Telex N°: _____

3. Information on the NGO:

(a) Registered status: _____

_____

(b) Year of foundation: _____

(c) Total annual budget: _____

(d) Aspects of contemporary forms of slavery with which the NGO deals in particular, and activities in that regard:

_____

_____

_____

4. Region(s) or country(ies) in which the organization is active:

_____

_____

5. Description of assistance requested:

(a) Name(s) of the person(s) participating in the session of the Working Group:

_____

(b) Travel from _____ to Geneva and return:

(c) Nature of participation in the Working Group:

[ ] Testimony
[ ] Presentation of a study/survey
[ ] Other _____

(d) Subject(s) of the presentation:
(Attach a half-page synopsis of the presentation.)

_____

_____

_____

(e) Amount of assistance requested: US$ _____

(i) Cost of travel US$ _____

(ii) Cost of accommodation in Geneva US$ _____

6. Organization's bank, address, account holder, account number:

_____

_____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Annex III

B.

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Form for requests for project support

1. Name of the non-governmental organization (NGO) and name of its representative:

_____

_____

2. Postal address of the NGO:

_____

_____

Telephone N°: _____

Fax N°: _____

Telex N°: _____

3. Information on the NGO:

(a) Registered status: _____

_____

(b) Year of foundation: _____

(c) Total annual budget: _____

(d) Aspects of contemporary forms of slavery with which the NGO deals in particular, and activities in that regard:

_____

_____

_____

4. Region(s) or country(ies) in which the organization is active:

_____

_____

5. Description of the project for victims of contemporary forms of slavery: (Attach a detailed project document.)

(a) Type of project:

[ ] Direct assistance to victims
[ ] A study
[ ] A publication
[ ] Other _____

(b) Duration of the project: from _____ to _____

(c) Background:

(i) Geographical area: _____

(ii) Situation and problems to be dealt with:

_____

_____

_____

(d) Objectives of the project:

(i) Beneficiaries: _____

_____

(ii) Expected outcome:

_____

_____

_____

(e) Activities under the project:

(i) For the victims:

[ ] Legal assistance
[ ] Humanitarian assistance
[ ] Financial assistance

(ii) Other activities: _____

(iii) Description of activities:

_____

_____

_____

_____

(f) Inputs (requirements and cost estimates):

	Local currency	US$
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

6. Total amount of the project:

Local currency	US$
_____	_____

7. Total amount of the Fund:

Local currency	US$
_____	_____

8. Organization's bank, address, account holder, account number:

_____

_____

Date: _____ Signature: _____